



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III- OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
Phone - 215/814-5100 Fax - 215/814-5102

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Contact: David Sternberg: (215) 814-5548
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Earth Week – It's a Big Deal at EPA!

PHILADELPHIA – Every day is earth day at EPA. So when the actual Earth Day rolls around every April 22, it's a really big day for hundreds of EPA employees who volunteer to teach in schools, collect litter from watersheds, staff information booths, and otherwise spread the good word about protecting the environment.

In EPA's mid-Atlantic region, it starts at the top with Regional Administrator Bradley Campbell, who will scuba dive into the Schuylkill River as part of Operation Clean Below on Tuesday, April 18. He'll be joined by 25 of his colleagues from EPA and hundreds of other volunteers looking to remove eight tons of trash and debris from the river, along the riverbank and from nearby Lemon Hill. They'll also monitor water quality and assess watershed conditions.

In Washington, D.C. April 20, 2000 EPA employees are actively participating in a wetlands planting sponsored by the EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, District of Columbia and Prince George's County. Volunteers – including EPA Regional Administrator Bradley Campbell – will help students from Edison Friendship School plant 150 wetland seedlings at the Langston Golf Course located adjacent to Kingman Lake. The students have been nurturing these plants as part of their science curriculum.

The event is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. at the Langston Golf Course clubhouse at 26th Street and Benning Road, N.E.

In observance of this year's theme, 'Sharing the planet, sharing the commitment.' There is a big demand for EPA speakers at community events and junior and senior high schools. Most requested topics include recycling, pollution prevention, global warming, Superfund and Green Communities.

(more)

Earth Week

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Regional Administrator Campbell will lead – or follow – 65 EPA employees in the Clean Air Council's 5K run on Saturday, April 22 along West River Drive in Philadelphia. The run is the Clean Air Council's major fund raiser and is open to all levels of runners and walkers.

On Wednesday, April 29, the Arch Streeters, a band made up of EPA employees, will perform from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market. The lunchtime event will run feature hazardous cleanup representatives wearing protective gear and explaining cleanup procedures.

One of the week's biggest events will be an energy fair called Earthfest 2000 at Fairmount Park on Saturday, April 22. More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the all-day festival sponsored by WMGK radio. EPA volunteers will staff tables at the Earthfest event and hand out literature about ways to save energy and protect the environment.

EPA also will send representatives to Earth Day activities at Cigna, Rohm & Haas, the World Affairs Council, a Penn State University suburban gardening event, the Rotary Club of Delaware County, and other federal agencies, including Social Security, Housing & Urban Development and the General Services Administration.

EPA staff also will volunteer in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Wheeling, W. Va., and in Davidsonville, Md.

EPA is present on the Internet this Earth Day with a web page at <http://www.epa.gov/region03/earthday>

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